

Cockatoos

Introduction

This display provides an overview of the superfamily of birds known as Cockatoos (*Cacatuoidea*).

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Palm Cockatoo and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo with other members of the Order Parrots



References

1. White, N.E., Phillips, M.J., Gilbert, M.T.P., Alfaro-Nunez, A., Willerslev, E., Mawson, P.R., Spencer, P.B.S. and Bunce, M. (2011) The evolutionary history of cockatoos (Aves: Psittaciformes: Cacatuidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 59 (3). pp. 615-622.
2. Joseph, L., Toon, A., Schirtzinger, E. E. and Scodde, R., "A revised nomenclature and classification for family-group taxa of parrots (Psittaciformes)", February 2012, *Zootaxa* 3205: 26-40 (2012).
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1. Cockatoo Family Trees

1.1 Relationship of Cockatoos with Birds and Other Parrots.

Phylogeny is the evolutionary relationship of biological species with one another. The diagram below shows the parrot superfamilies, including that of the cockatoos, and how they are related to other birds.

Cockatoos (*Cacatuoidea*) are one of three superfamilies in the order Parrots (*Psittaciformes*).

Cockatoos and macaws are in the same order.

Order: Parrots
Psittaciformes

The Blue Crane is in the order of "crane-like" birds, the *Gruiformes*. They and the Parrots are part of a clade consisting of all modern birds, the *Neoaves*.

Class: Birds
Aves



Parrot Superfamilies

New Zealand Parrots
Strigopoidea

The ancestors of New Zealand Parrots formed the earliest superfamily. These are a Kea and a Kaka.



Red orange

Other Birds
Aves



Cockatoos
Cacatuoidea



True Parrots
Psittacoidea

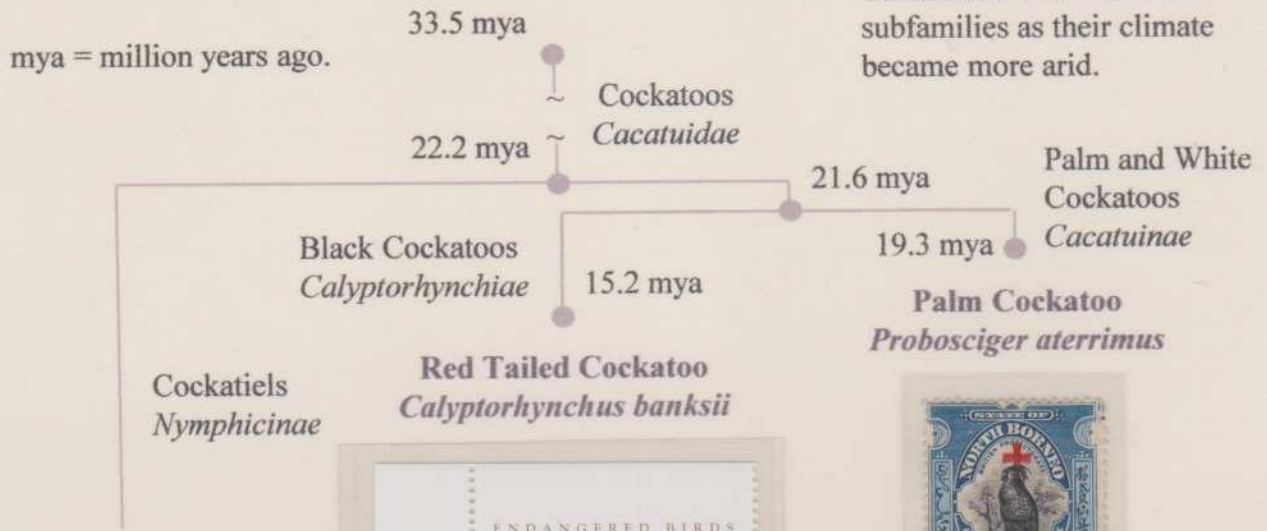


The bird above is a Cape Wagtail. This bird is in the order of perching birds (*Passeriformes*). Like cockatoos and other parrots they are capable of vocal learning.

1. Cockatoo Family Trees

1.2 The Cockatoo Family and Subfamilies

There is only one family in the superfamily *Cacatuoidea* (Cockatoos), the *Cacatuidae* (the English name is the same, Cockatoos). The family contains three subfamilies. This diagram shows how they are related to one another.



Cacatuidae diversified into subfamilies as their climate became more arid.

Cockatiel
Nymphicus hollandicus



Nymphicus is the only genus and *hollandicus* the only species in the *Nymphicinae* subfamily.



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cacatua galerita

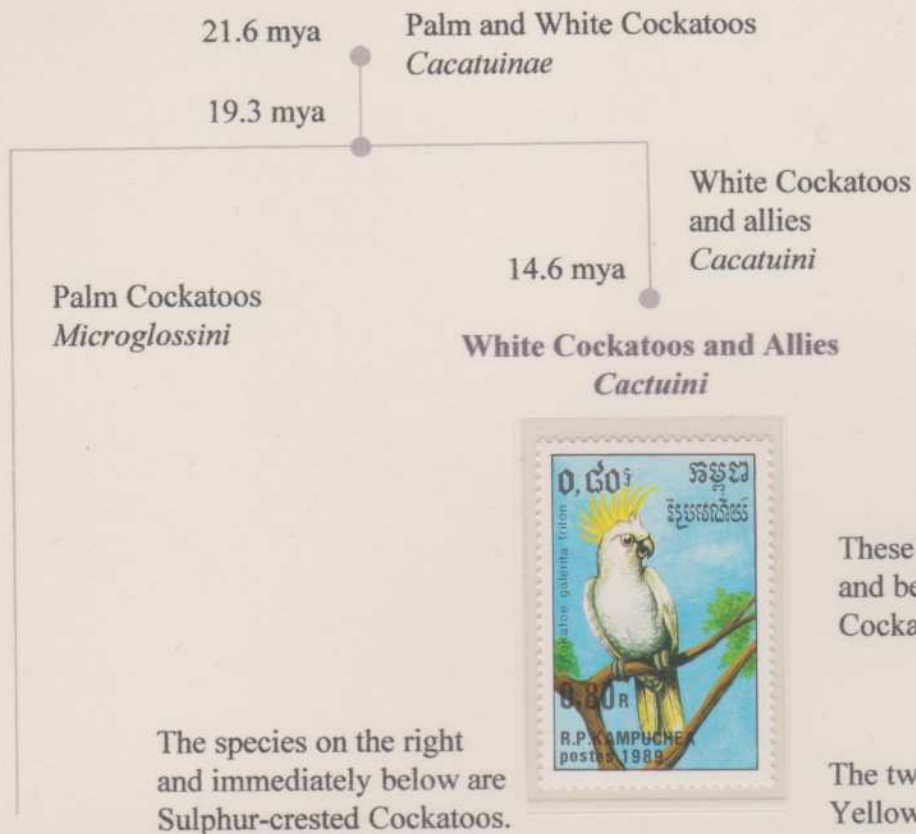


The nodes represent the time at which the ancestors of cockatoos became distinct from other parrots and when the ancestors of the three subfamilies diversified.

1. Cockatoo Family Trees

1.3 The Cacatuinae Tribes

One of the subfamilies of cockatoos, the *cacatuinae*, formed two tribes; the Palm Cockatoos (*Microglossini*) and the White Cockatoos and allies (*cacatuini*).



These four birds (left and below) are White Cockatoos (*Cacatua*).

The two species below are Yellow-crested Cockatoos.

Palm Cockatoo
Probosciger artemimus



Probosciger is the only genus in the *Microglossini* tribe.



Orange



Orange-brown

Some of the birds in the *cacatuini* tribe have pink plumage, like the Major Mitchell's Cockatoos above.

2. Types of Cockatoo

The parrot superfamilies are divided into families, sub-families and tribes, with the genera and species distributed amongst them.

There is only one family in the cockatoo superfamily (*Cacatuoidea*); the *Cacatuidae*. Within this family there are three subfamilies, which are listed below in order of their philology, i.e. the order in which their ancestors evolved.

2.1 Nymphicinae

There is only one genus and species in this subfamily, the Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*).

Cockatiel (Centre) and True Parrots *Nymphicus hollandicus et Psittacoidea*

This is the earliest and smallest of the Cockatoos, They are 30 to 33 cm (12 to 13 in) long.

The bright orange cheek patch on a white background indicates that this bird is a male.



This Cockatiel has the characteristic plumage of the wild bird.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*



The blue tinge of this Cockatiel's plumage suggests that it was bred in captivity. Blue is one of 22 colour mutations.

2. Types of Cockatoo

2.2 Calyptorhynchinae

This is a subfamily of dark cockatoos that has one genus. There are five species belonging to two subgenera listed below.

2.2.1 *Calyptorhynchus* – Black and Red Cockatoos.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus banksii

Glossy Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus lathami

C. banksii have large powerful bills that can cut a brazil nut quickly and easily, shearing it like a laser.



The population *c. lathami* on Kangaroo Island, Australia, are under threat from the 2019-2020 bush fires

2.2.2 *Zanda* – Black and Yellow/White Cockatoos.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus funereus



Funereus refers to the birds' dark plumage; as if dressed for a funeral.

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus latirostris

Baudin's Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus baudinii

Latirostris prefer to breed in the southwest Australia where rainfall is over 300 mm/year.



Baudin's or Long-billed Black Cockatoos occupy a smaller range of southwest Australia than *Latirostris*.

2. Types of Cockatoo

2.3 Cacatuinae

The third subfamily contains the black palm and white/pink/grey cockatoos. There are two tribes listed below.

2.3.1 *Microglossini*.

The Palm Cockatoo is the only species in the Microglossini tribe. It is also known as the Goliath Cockatoo, because of its large size of 55 to 60 cm.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*



Helio-Vaugiraud Proof
1949

2. Types of Cockatoo

2.3.2 Cacatuini.

The Cacatuini tribe contains four genera. These are listed below.

2.3.3.1 *Callocephalon*.

There is just one species, the *Callocephalon fimbriatum*, the Gang-gang cockatoo.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*



This is the earliest species of *cacatuini* to evolve., the grey colour indicating close kin with earlier black cockatoos.

The Galah (right) and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (below) are seen as early offshoots of white cockatoos that have retained their pink colour.

2.3.3.2 *Eolophus*.

The only species is *Eolophus roseicapilla*, the Galah.

Galah Cockatoo *Eolophus roseicapilla*



2.3.3.3 *Lophochroa*.

There is again just one species, *Lophochroa leadbeateri*. This bird is known as Leadbeater's or Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri*



КАКАДУ ИНКА

Куда _____

Кому _____

Индекс предприятия связи
и адрес отправителя



Индекс предприятия связи места назначения

2. Types of Cockatoo

2.3.3.4 *Cacatua*.

The *Cacatua* genus of mostly white cockatoos is divided into two sub-genera. These are listed below.

2.3.3.4.1 *Licmetis* - Corellas.

There are six species of Corellas, two of which are illustrated in the stamps below.

Red-vented cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia*

Native to the Philippines, Red-vented Cockatoos are also known as Kalangays.

The population is critically endangered due to trapping for the caged bird trade.



Ducorp's or Solomon's cockatoos are one of the smaller cockatoos (30 cm long).

Ducorp's Cockatoo *Cacatua (Licmetis) ducorpsii*



24 May 1965



Watermark sideways
1966



Watermark upright
14 Feb 1966

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua (Licmetis) tenuirostris*

Native to Australia this Corella uses its bill to dig for roots and seeds.



2. Types of Cockatoo

2.3.3.4.2 *Cacatua* – true white cockatoos.

There are five species of true white cockatoos, three of which are illustrated in the stamps below.

Sulphur-crested cockatoo
Cacatua (cacatua) galerita



The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo does not have the yellow or orange cheek patches seen in the Yellow-crested Cockatoos below.

Yellow-crested cockatoo
Cacatua (cacatua) sulphurea



The two birds on the right are probably members of the sub-species *Citroncristata* or Citron-crested Cockatoo.

Salmon-crested Cockatoo
Cacatua (cacatua) moluccensis

Also known as the Moluccan Cockatoo this bird is endemic to Saram in Indonesia. It is among the largest of the white cockatoos (46 -55 cm long).



3. Morphology and Behaviour

3.1 Feet, Crests and Plumage

Cockatoos (*Cacatuoidea*) and Parrots (*Psittaciformes*) possess zygodactyl feet (two toes in front and two behind) which allow them to

.....not only perch.

Palm Cockatoo on a Perch
Probosciger artemimus



.....but grasp, items such as food.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo holding food.



Cockatoos also have features that distinguish them from other parrots.

They have a crest which they can control for display and raising the alarm.

Palm Cockatoo showing off its crest



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo raising its crest.



Most cockatoos have white, grey or black feathers.

Black Cockatoo Feather



The Galahs spread pigment dye across their feathers, which combined with melanin produces the deep pink colour.

Galah with Pink Colouration



Cockatoos do not possess the Dyck texture that causes the blue and green feathers seen on most other parrots.

Red and Green Macaw
Ara chloroptera



3. Morphology and Behaviour

3.2 Group Behaviour

Sulphur-crested cockatoos *Cacatua (cacatua) galerita*



Many species such as the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Galahs travel around and feed in large flocks.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*



Grey dash above "L" of
"AUSTRALIA" on the top stamp.
Helecon paper grey cylinder variety LrSh 3/7.

Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo in a Tree *Cacatua (cacatua) galerita*

When the flock is on the ground feeding, there is often another bird up in a tree or perched high up keeping guard. This bird will call loudly if a predator is seen.



3. Morphology and Behaviour

3.3 Diet

Cockatoos have a wide ranging diet that consists of mainly nuts

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Eating a Walnut *Cacatua (cacatua) galerita*



Cockatoos, like other parrots, will often invite other birds and humans to preen their head feathers by indicating them with a foot.

..... and seeds.

Galah Eating Seeds *Eolophus roseicapilla*



The diet of the Palm Cockatoo includes the fruit of the Pandanus tree.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*



Pandanus Trees



4. Distribution and Habitat

4.1 Country of Origin and Favoured Habitat

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos flying amongst Eucalyptus Trees

All of the cockatoos reside in Australasia and many are indigenous to Australia.



They usually prefer areas where there are trees to provide nest sites and food.

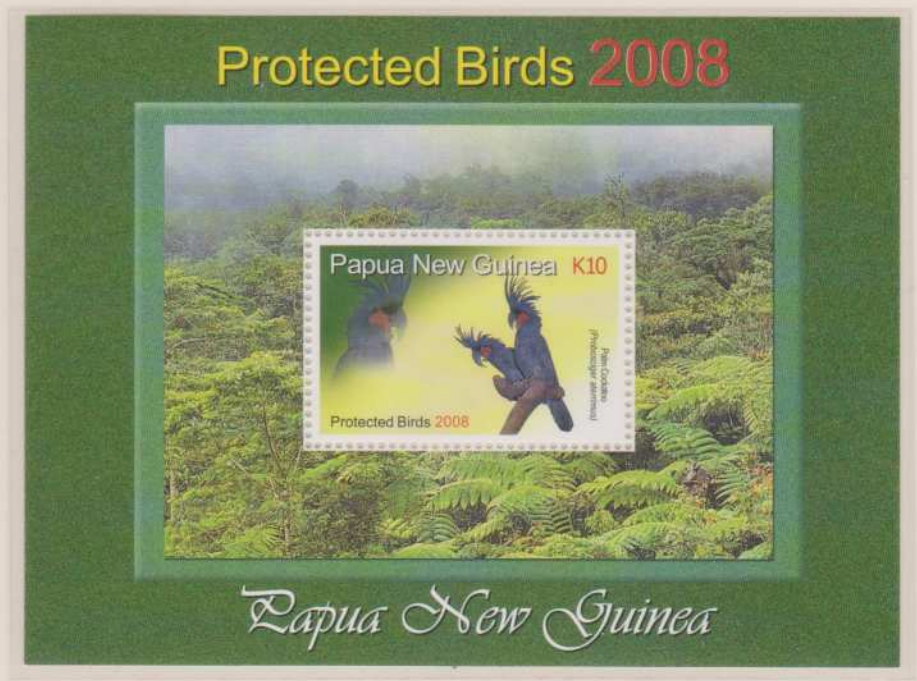
Some species such as the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo are widespread across Australia.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Plane Trees



This is because they can tolerate areas with fewer trees.

Palm Cockatoo and the Rainforest *Probosciger aterrimus*



Other species are restricted to parts of Australia or a few islands in Indonesia.

Ducorp's Cockatoo *Cacatua (Licmetis) ducorpsii*



For instance the Ducorp's Cockatoo is only found on the Solomon Islands.

Red-vented Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia*



...and the Red-vented Cockatoo is only found in the Philippines.

5. Relationship with Humans

5.1 Impact of Exploration

Human exploration and technology can lead to a reduction in suitable habitat for parrots, including cockatoos.

Galahs and the Explorers Hamilton Hume and Captain William Hovell



Cockatoos by an Airfield *Cacatuidae*



Galahs waiting for an opportunity to steal or beg some food from tourists.



However, several species are quite bold and can benefit from the presence of humans in their territory.

5.2 Cockatoos and the Arts.

Cockatoos feature in art.... and cartoons.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo in a Batik Design



Sulphur Crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*



5. Relationship with Humans

5.3 Pets

With care (some birds live a long time) and with training cockatoos make excellent pets, but they can be very noisy and demanding of attention and activity.

Boy with a Palm Cockatoo

Probosciger aterrimus

KIND EN DIER



Het ontwerp geeft aan, dat het oudere kind behoefte heeft aan een eigen identiteit, waarbij het uiterlijk een belangrijke plaats inneemt.



EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE
F.D.C. — 16 NOVEMBER 1982

TROMPETUITGAVE
NR. 153 D



Yellow 'Lutino' Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus



Humans breeding birds for aviaries and as pets have developed 22 colour mutations of cockatiels including yellow.